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DEFENDANT LINKS SPY

MIAMI

A former defendant in an alleged cocaine smuggling conspiracy says he has valuable information involving the murder-conspiracy case of former CIA agent Edward Wilson.

The Miami News reported Thursday that Raul Villaverde, charged in the so-called "Operation Tick-Talks" case thrown out of court earlier this month, went to Washington, D.C. several months ago to cooperate in Wilson's prosecution.

An unnamed Justice Department source in Washington told The News that Villaverde and his brother, Rafael, provided Barcella with details about a meeting with Wilson. He is charged with illegally exporting 40,000 pounds of plastic explosives to Libya, conspiracy to commit murder and solicitation to commit murder.

Villaverde, a CIA-trained explosives expert who participated in the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, said that during a meeting with Wilson in Geneva in 1976, Wilson tried to recruit him and his brother to train terrorists in Libya and to assassinate a Libyan dissident, the Miami newspaper reported.